



# LEWISITE

UN 1556

Other Names: Chlorovinylidichloroarsine  
Chlorovinylarsine dichloride  
Dichloro (2-chlorovinyl) arsine  
L  
M-1



**WARNING!** • **POISON! BREATHING THE VAPOR, OR SWALLOWING THE MATERIAL CAN KILL YOU! SKIN AND EYE CONTACT CAUSES SEVERE BURNS AND BLINDNESS!**  
• Fire fighting gear (including SCBA) does not provide adequate protection. If exposure occurs, remove and isolate gear immediately and thoroughly decontaminate personnel

## Hazards:

- Odor is not a reliable indicator of the presence toxic amounts of vapor
- Container may BLEVE or explode when exposed to fire
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Combustion products include toxic hydrogen chloride and arsenic compounds

## Awareness and Operational Level Training

### Response:

- Do not put yourself in danger by entering a contaminated area to rescue a victim
- Stay uphill and upwind
- Determine the extent of the problem
- BACK OFF! - Isolate a wide area of release or fire, deny entry and call for expert help
- Evacuate or shelter in place the immediate area and downwind for a large release
- For container exposed to fire evacuate the area in all directions because of the risk of BLEVE or explosion
- Notify local health and fire officials and pollution control agencies
- If material or contaminated runoff enters waterways, notify downstream users of potentially contaminated water

## Description:

- Colorless liquid if pure; turns violet to black or green with age
- Faint geranium-like odor
- Sinks in water and insoluble in water
- Flammable
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Freezes at 9° F
- Has been used as a blister-type war gas

## Operational Level Training Response:

### RELEASE, NO FIRE:

- BACK OFF! - Isolate a wide area around the release and call for expert help
- If in a building, evacuate building and confine vapors by closing doors and shutting down HVAC systems

### FIRE:

- Specially trained personnel operating from a safe distance can fight fires using foam or dry chemical if available in sufficient amounts or use fog streams to extinguish burning liquid. Keep exposures cool to protect against re-ignition. Do not direct straight streams into the liquid.
- Cool exposed containers with large quantities of water from unattended equipment or remove intact containers if it can be done safely
- If cooling streams are ineffective (unvented container distorts, bulges or shows any other signs of expanding), withdraw immediately to a secure location
- Use unattended equipment whenever possible

## First Aid:

- Do not put yourself in danger by entering a contaminated area to rescue a victim
- The contaminated victim poses a health risk to the responder
- Decontaminate the victim from a safe distance with a stream of water; have the victim remove clothing if possible; provide Basic Life Support/CPR as needed
- Further decontaminate the victim as follows:
  - ♦ Inhalation - remove the victim to fresh air and give oxygen if available
  - ♦ Skin - remove and isolate contaminated clothing (including shoes) and wash skin with soap and large volumes of water for 15 minutes
  - ♦ Eye - rinse eyes with large volumes of water or saline for 15 minutes
  - ♦ Swallowed - do not make the victim vomit
- Victims should be examined by a physician as soon as possible
- Toxic effects may be delayed
- For skin burns decontaminate with water and apply a clean dry dressing

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